

White River Valley Electric Cooperative
August 19, 2021
Board Meeting Report

The White River Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Directors met in regular session at the Branson Headquarters on Thursday August 19th, 2021 beginning at 9:00 am. The meeting was held in the Community Room to allow for social distancing due to the Missouri COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions.

The Board began by reviewing and unanimously approving items on the consent agenda which included; August Board Meeting Agenda, July Board Meeting Minutes and the July Board Summary.

Next Vice President Whorton, Chair of the Bylaw, Governance and Member Engagement Committee, stated discussion would be held during the Executive Session portion of the meeting to review the CEO's performance evaluation and approved new goals for 2022 with CEO Chris Hamon.

Director Funk, Chair of the Finance and Equity Management Committee, reported the Committee had not recently met, but will meet before the October Board meeting, so he had nothing to report at this time.

President Hyatt stated there were no officer reports to present.

Updates were given by the following departments: Safety and Training, Accounting and Office Operations, Communications and Member Engagement, Engineering and Development, Information Technology and Operations.

During the departmental updates, information was provided on the following subject matters: Safety inspections of trucks and gear, OSHA compliance, July financials, YTD financials, 2021 Annual Meeting of Members, member communications, Fiber to the Home (FTTH) feasibility study, current pole inspections, new services, the AVL system, and right-of-way progress.

While discussing the Fiber to the Home feasibility study, a recommendation was made to conduct a Board study session to more thoroughly examine the information presented. September 2, 2021, was set as the study session date, beginning at 9:00 am, at the Branson Headquarters.

During the Accounting and Office Operations update, Manager Tim Shafer updated the board on the initiative to address booked assets of the Cooperative for targeting and clarifying what the Cooperative owns and maintains through inventories and on its books for better synchronization. Shafer announced a recent hiring for the Sr. Accountant position. Courtney Meneer joins White River's internal accounting team with an accounting degree and a strong background in cost accounting.

Next, during the Communications and Member Engagement Department report, Manager Cassie Cunningham, addressed how members can ask questions at Annual Meeting based on our virtual meeting format. According to our bylaws, a member is not able to place action items directly on the ballot for membership vote at Annual Meeting. The board is responsible for reviewing/researching and putting such matters to a member vote through our representative form of cooperative governance. Members are encouraged to join the Member Alliance Program (MAP) and to provide any questions, concerns, or suggestions through that process. In addition to MAP

submissions, the Cooperative will also be able to receive questions during the live annual meeting.

Cunningham then reported on several promising “Plugged In” applications for each of our service counties presently under review by the Operation Round Up (ORU) board. “Plugged In”, WRVEC’s Community Enhancement Program, provides grants and employee sweat equity to organizations seeking assistance for community-driven projects. The program is designed to grow area economies, promote community revitalization, and strengthen overall livability in each county. Twenty-six (26) applications were submitted. **Christian County** projects will cover signage, walking trails, parks, and road clean-up. **Stone County** works include a beautification project, humane society funding, and involvement with a community serve day. **Taney County** projects will include walking trails, a community activity center remodel, and fences for a dog park. **Douglas County** projects will upgrade playground equipment, landscaping, and signage. **Ozark County** projects will rebuild a public access dock, cover a PA system, and introduce seasonal banners and planter boxes for area improvements. Members are thrilled at the opportunity to secure funding and for White River employees to help complete projects that may have not happened otherwise.

JC Zalog, Manager of Information Technology, reported our current telephone contract is expiring in September. The IT department is considering alternative systems with an aim to reduce complexity, lack of technical support, and cost. Zalog then reported that he attended KAMO’s Summer IT meeting. At this meeting, he was able to network and learned the North American Collaboration Summit is being held in Branson this August. Not only did he learn of this Summit, but he also received complimentary registrations for White River’s IT team (a significant cost savings). Zalog then stressed the importance for those in his IT department to collaborate with others in the information technology field through in-person attendance at conferences, giving them unique opportunities to learn and develop new skills and forge new relationships with others in the IT world who can serve as sources for technical assistance as that need may arise.

Monthly reports on Cooperative activities/programs were presented by the following: Chris Hamon, CEO; Angie O’Dell, Manager of Executive Business Administration; the KAMO Report was presented by Director Short; the Sho-Me Report was presented by CEO Hamon; the Legal report was presented by Attorney Christiaan Horton.

During the Executive Business Departmental report, Manager Angie O’Dell reported that the 2021 board meeting calendar was revised due to a conflict on the October calendar date previously approved. The October Board of Directors meeting will now be held on Monday, October 25th, 2021. The calendar will be revised to show this change.

An Executive Session of the Board was then held to discuss several confidential matters. The board reviewed job performance evaluation results with CEO Hamon along with his new 2022 goals approved by the Board. Board Legal Counsel, CEO Hamon, and entire board were present for this portion of the meeting. The Executive Session then concluded and the meeting adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the White River Valley Electric Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, September 11th, 2021. This meeting will be held at the Branson Headquarters at the conclusion of the WRVEC 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting in accord with the bylaws of the Cooperative.

Jenny Whorton / Vice-President